

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4 are pending in this application. Claims 1-4 stand rejected.

**Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. §103**

Claims 1-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over **Mizoguchi et al.** (USP 5,841,466, previously cited) in view of **Ito** (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0021979)

Claims 1-4 have been amended to recite “means (a circuit) for onscreen displaying... a password entry screen...” and “means (a circuit) for comparing the password entered on the password entry screen...”.

In accordance with the presently claimed invention, when the power to the liquid crystal projector is turned on in the state where a password is registered, the password entry screen is onscreen displayed. This will make people around the liquid crystal projector recognize that this liquid crystal projector is protected by a password. In other words, it would be recognized more clearly that this liquid crystal projector could not be used even if it were stolen. This will contribute to reducing the risk of the liquid crystal projector being stolen.

It is respectfully submitted that neither **Mizoguchi et al.** nor **Ito** disclose or suggest the presently recited “means (a circuit) for onscreen displaying... a password entry screen...” and “means (a circuit) for comparing the password entered on the password entry screen...”.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-4 patentably distinguish over the combination of **Mizoguchi et al.** and **Ito** for at least these reasons.

Furthermore, the presently claimed invention includes the feature of the “determining circuit (means) to determine a number of times an erroneous password is entered and inhibiting operation of the liquid crystal projector by the operation unit (means) in response to determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times”. This feature further enhances deterrence of theft of the liquid crystal projector.

In the previous Office Action, the **Mizoguchi et al.** reference was applied against the claims under §102. In the current Office Action, the Examiner has combined **Mizoguchi et al.** with **Ito** to reject the claims under §103.

The Examiner applies the **Mizoguchi et al.** reference against claims 1-4 to teach the exact same claim elements as in the previous Office Action mailed January 12, 2006. The **Mizoguchi et al.** reference was discussed in detail in the previous response, and a detailed discussion will not be reiterated here.

The Examiner recognizes that **Mizoguchi et al.** do not teach the claimed “*determining circuit (determining means) to determine a number of times an erroneous password is entered and to inhibit operation of the liquid crystal projector by the operation unit in response to determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times*”, as recited in claims 1-4. See Office Action, page 3, lines 3-4 and page 4, lines 18-19.

The Examiner relies on **Ito** to teach the features missing from **Mizoguchi et al.**

**Ito** discloses an image processing apparatus, such as a color copying apparatus, which can identify a person who performs an illegal copying or printing operation (e.g., forgery of banknotes). **Ito** teaches a card reader (see section [0147]) that first identifies whether a card ID and a customer ID read from a credit card are registered (see section [0148] and [0149]), and then requests that a user *enter a password* (see section [0151]) if it is determined that the card ID and the customer ID are registered.

When it is determined that the entered password does not match the customer ID, a message such as “Wrong Password” is displayed to request reentry of the password by the user. If the user *enters the wrong password three times in succession, the Ito system inhibits the use of the credit card corresponding to the customer ID*. See section [0153].

The Examiner asserts “It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to add an additional circuit to determine a number of times an erroneous password is entered and to inhibit operation of the display of **Mizoguchi** in response to determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times as taught by **Ito** in order to prevent an unauthorized user from guessing at the password repeatedly.” See Office Action, page 3, lines 7-13.

However, it is respectfully submitted that **Ito** does not alleviate the deficiencies of **Mizoguchi et al.** because **Ito** does not disclose or suggest “*inhibiting operation of the liquid crystal projector* by the operation means in response to determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times.”

**Ito** teaches inhibiting use of the credit card used to access the printer/copier in response to determining an erroneous password has been entered three (3) times. However, **Ito** does not disclose or suggest inhibiting operation of a liquid crystal projector by an operation means in response to determining an erroneous password has been entered a predetermined number of times.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of references does not disclose or suggest the claimed “*determining circuit (determining means) to determine a number of times an erroneous password is entered and to inhibit operation of the liquid crystal projector by the operation unit in response to determining that the number of times an erroneous password is entered exceeds a predetermined number of times*”. Accordingly, claims 1-4 patentably distinguish over the combination of **Mizoguchi et al.** and **Ito** for these additional reasons.

### CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and accompanying remarks, it is submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. A prompt and favorable reconsideration of the rejection and an indication of allowability of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that there are issues remaining to be resolved in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite and complete prosecution of this case.

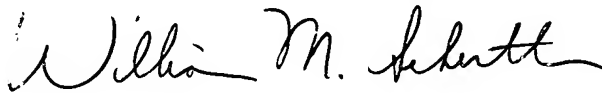
Application No. 10/644,068  
Art Unit: 2629

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
Attorney Docket No.: 031016

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

**WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Schertler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Schertler" being clearly legible, and "M." in the middle.

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